(5) Product mix of the company revamped and new product profile introduced resulting in better returns.

(6) Management has introduced changes in the set up to make the company more competitive.

Ban on Use of Endosulfan

1807. SHRI CO. POULOSE:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that continuous use of Endosulfan pesticide, causes severe damage to living organisms in the surroundings areas;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain its effect on environment and on human life:

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether many developed countries have banned/restricted the use of this pesticide.

(e) whether Kerala Government has also requested to ban it;

(f) if so, whether any ban/restriction has been imposed on its use in the country; and

(g) if not, whether Government would consider to ban its use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides for use on food crops in the country only after satisfying itself regarding data on chemistry, bioefficacy, residues of the pesticides and their safety to human health, animals and environment. If pesticides are used as per the guidelines prescribed by the Registration Committee and following good agricultural practices, they do not pose any hazards to human health.

(b) and (c) The Expert Committees constituted by the Government of India in 1991 and 1998 to review the continued use or otherwise of Endosulfan recommended its continued use. In view of media reports

about the hazardous effects of Endosulfan, Government of Kerala constituted an Expert Committee in 2001 under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Achuthan. The Committee concluded as follows:—

'There is no evidence to attribute these health problems directly to endosulfan pollution, but there is no evidence to completely deny it".

The Committee also recommended the ban on aerial spraying of pesticides in all cashew plantations in Kasargod district of Kerala, pesticide holiday for five years in Peria Division of Plantation Corporation of Kerala and promotion of Integrated Pest Management. On the direction of National Human Rights Commission, a study has been conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) of the Indian Council of Medical Research and higher prevalence of unusual diseases like mental retardation, congenital defects and abnormalities of re-productive system in children in the affected villages of Kasargod district of North Kerala has been reported in their first report.

(d) As per the consolidated list of products whose consumption and/ or sale have been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted or not approved by the Government (V Issue United Nations, New York—1994), the use of Endosulfan is banned/severely restricted in about 12 countries of the world viz. Belize, Canada, Dominica, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

(e) to (g) No request has been received from Kerala Government to ban the use of endosulfan. Moreover, Government of Kerala has banned the aerial spraying of Endosulfan on all crops in the State. Apart from this, there is no ban/restriction on the use of Endosulfan in the country presently. The Registration Committee constituted under Section (5) of the Insecticides Act, 1968 has constituted an Expert Group to study the effects of use of endosulfan in this perspective and make recommendations regarding its continued use/restricted use or otherwise.

Environmental Clearance for Power Project in Gujarat

1808. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for power project in Gujarat is pending for environmental clearance with Government;